### BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

### CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

Corra Harris's Entertaining New Book-Mr. Hamilton Preaches a Sermon.

New Novels by Selma Lagerlolf, Marion H. Carter, W. Dane Bank, Eleanor M. Kelly,

(Little, Brown & Co.) By Coame

The desire to promote the propa-

to paint in crude and glaring colors

Hamilton. (\$1.40.)

A CIRCUIT RIDER'S WIDOW. and her book is sure to be widely (Doubleday, Page & Co.) By read, but not as fiction Corra Harris. (\$1.50.) THE SINS OF THE CHILDREN

It is only at the end, when she takes up the description of a minister who tries to make his congregation act like Christians, that there is any ganda for education in matters of sex semblance of a story in Corra Har- which he has taken upon himself has ris's A Circuit Rider's Widow (Double- led Cosmo Hamilton in The Sins of day, Page & Co.) The narrator is a the Children (Little, Brown and Co.) bright and sharp tongued old lady, alarming pictures of vice. His villain the widow of a Methodist minister in is wholly black, with no redeeming s small Southern town. She describes trait, a decadent Mephistopheles, who religious conditions in her community and various members of her church, with no tinge of honor, surrounded with other aristocrats of criminal enlivening the narrative with apposite habits. The troubles brought upon an stories and anecdotes, and her de- unsophisticated American family are scription applies, with slight altera- mainly of his devising, which detracts tions, in one way or another to nearly every church in the United States. dren in matters of sex. It is difficult to The form in which her criticisms are see how such instruction could have put is amiable enough, but that does helped the young people in question; not blunt their sting, and they are their parents allow them all the money sure to be resented by many good way. The girls behave with a vul-

The jealousies and un-Christian be-bavior of church people toward one another in daily life, the readiness to own wilfulness and not from ignothink evil of others, the pettiness and futility of church secieties and asso- ders of the youth who wishes to be ciations, the faults of ministers toward a sport on Broadway are of the same the author writes with an arter and their congregations and of the con-gregations toward ministers, the need-mother, however, are obliged to take bardships and annoyances to the blame. Mr. Hamilton writes well, which ministers and their families but he does not concern himself with AN AVERAGE WOMAN. (George are subjected, all are shown up mercilessly and plainly, so that while churches may not see that such conditions exist among themselves they will readily recognize them in their She arraigns the Methodist church particularly and openly; its organization and administration, the manner in which it collects and uses money, the way in which it treats its preachers, its neglect of the religious duties for which churches exist, and it is plain that she would be equally severe with other denomina-tions if she felt that she was as well acquainted with their inner workings. The stories she uses to illustrate her arguments are good and telling. The tolerant, philosophic attitude of an old woman who has lived through it all and has endured it adds to the force of the indictment. Whether it

be just or not is another matter. The author is always bright; she talks the language and treats of the matters that are familiar to all who profess to observe any formal religion

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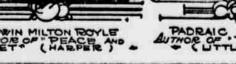
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War. The American hero

Frederick Palmer







brother, but lives her own life and A thus impresses them in time. The

which of the product of the product

Hamilton Carter. (\$1.35.)

Masterful the heroine of Eleanor It is the tragedy of the high Mercein Kelly's Kildares of Storm strung, overeducated young woman (The Century Company) certainly is, rought face to face with the realities and almost masculine, and she is put to of life that Marien Hamilton Carter a lot of trouble by her two daughters puts before us in Souls Resurgent besides being involved in melodramatic (Charles Scribner's Sons), and her detailed a She is the widow of an alsire to make her points clear leads most insane soundrel and is so comher to select extreme cases with im- promised by his violent death that she probabilities which must be accepted is cut by society in the part of Kenfor the sake of the argument. Even tucky she lives in. She manares the a ten year separation and an ecestate, however, like a business man centric father's desire cannot account and rears two charming daughters, for her complete detachment from her. She loves an amiable convict, senmother and family; the theory of race tenced unjustly to a life term for killhas to be brought in. The girl by her ims her husband; this renders her father's will is put in sole charge of immune to other admirers. One daughr family and of the property. She ter is conventional and pains her ias been educated in the East and is mother by suspecting her of having compelled to live in squalid surround-ings in Wyoming, which may indi-when she discovers the facts becomes cate a reaction from the glorification dutiful again and wins one of her of Western freedom. She makes no mother's admirers. The other is impletermined effort to help her mother, pulsive and reckless; she loses her her young sister and her drunken

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"Fate and a rather courageous Co onial Governor ordained that I should The first volume of the new series of American Guide Books fore I was quite one and twenty years of age. This course was not at the time as reckless and desperate as it sounds

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